

To: Tucker, Teresa[teri_tucker@nps.gov]
Cc: Wise, Robert[Wise.Robert@epa.gov]; Martin Stephens[martin_stephens@nps.gov]; John Spence[john_spence@nps.gov]
From: Anderson, Mark
Sent: Wed 8/12/2015 11:28:59 PM
Subject: Re: Follow-up on Glen Canyon / Lake Powell

Hi Robert,

We are lining up a lot of monitoring with partners that will examine and determine the fate of the sediment and water that will enter the lake. You may have heard about the USGS Mercury researchers that we will be out there starting next week. We will establish additional San Juan Arm sites to characterize the water column, collect samples from appropriate levels, grab sediment from the surface of the bottom sediments, and deploy sediment traps to actually see what is falling out. A few weeks after that, other USGS partners (Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center) will head out on their routine quarterly lake-wide monitoring trip, which will have them in the San Juan sampling the water column. We will continue conversations with partners to identify what long-term monitoring needs there may be. We would welcome EPA input and assistance on these short- and long-term ecological monitoring efforts.

The thrust of our current request to EPA for sampling is driven by our interest in advising our visitors. I've spoken with our Public Health Consultant (cc'ed here) and some colleagues in AZDEQ about what we would need to understand visitor risks. For this, what we need is not necessarily the type of effort described above, but perhaps more of a surface sampling to characterize the water that visitors will be exposed to. A number of surface grab samples, perhaps with fairly high resolution near the inflow and spot checks proceeding from there would probably demonstrate that surface waters of Lake Powell pose no new threat to visitors.

What Glen Canyon would really like is for EPA to state that this spill doesn't present any risk to Lake Powell visitors. It won't change our views on the short and long term ecological monitoring we see as needed, but if EPA could make a statement like that, we would use it in press releases in hopes of tamping down the significant panic that has developed; alternately, if risks exist, we'd like to have those understood, so we can advise our visitors. To get to EPA saying this spill doesn't create risks or justification for any closures on Lake Powell doesn't depend on what I would do to determine risk to our visitors.

Perhaps the best answer to what sampling we want is: the sampling EPA would need to let us know what to tell our visitors.

During this immediate effort, I'm assuming you are not looking to do the ecological type monitoring we need. You probably have the best sense of the most appropriate suite of analytes from all the work upstream in the river. You may not have a good grasp on the logistics of Lake Powell (I can help there). We can pull together more state folks and public health officials to provide input if it would be helpful.

Let me know what you think of all that.

Thanks,

Mark

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On Wed, Aug 12, 2015 at 12:18 PM, Tucker, Teresa <teri_tucker@nps.gov> wrote:

Hi Robert, I'm sorry I missed your phone call this morning. Mark Anderson is our aquatic ecologist at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and is our primary point of contact for water sampling efforts.

Mark, Robert is asking for input on where to conduct sampling on Lake Powell in response to the Gold King Mine Release.

Please let me know if you two are unable to connect and if there is anything I can do to assist. Thanks!

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